

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W

----- 027576

R 071117Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4065

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL BREMEN

UNCLAS HAMBURG 1681

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, GW

SUBJECT: NEW CDU/FDP COALITION IN NIEDERSACHSEN

1. TEN MONTHS AFTER THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN HANNOVER FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF MINPRES. KUBEL, THE FDP IN NIEDERSACHSEN (UNTIL NOW IN OPPOSITION WITH THE SPD TO A MINORITY CDU GOVERNMENT) AND THE CDU HAVE AGREED ON A COALITION TO LAST AT LEAST UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1978, WHEN THE NEXT LANDTAG ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. THE DELEGATION LEADERS MINPRES. DR. ERNST ALBRECHT, CDU, AND ROETGER GROSS, FDP - REACHED, AFTER 13 MEETINGS, AN AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

A) BUNDESRAT: THE NIEDERSACHSEN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE BUNDESRAT WILL "ENDEAVOR" NOT TO OPPOSE BUNDESTAG DECISIONS;

B) DISTRICT REFORM: IGNORING THE WARNING OF SOME CDU PARTY OFFICIALS, ALBRECHT HAS AGREED TO A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES (KREISE). (ALBRECHT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING THIS CONCESSION TO HIS REGIONAL CDU ORGANIZATIONS).

C) EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS: MEMBERSHIP IN A NON-CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION RAISES "JUSTIFIABLE" DOUBTS AS TO THE READINESS

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OF AN APPLICANT TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC FUNDAMENTALS. SUCH MEMBER-

SHIP, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE BUT ONE OF THE POINTS OF CONSIDERATION. REJECTION OF AN APPLICATION ON THIS GROUND ALONE WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF A RECORD OF ANTI-DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTION HAS BEEN KEPT BY A COURT.

D) ECONOMY AND FINANCES: A SPECIAL FUND IS TO BE SET UP TO SUPPORT THE NIEDERSACHSEN ECONOMY AND 100 MILLION DM WILL BE CONTRIBUTED TO IT ANNUALLY. A FEDERAL INITIATIVE TO RAISE THE ADDED-VALUE-TAX BY TWO POINTS IN 1978 IS TO BE ACCEPTED.

E) EDUCATION: THE FUTURE PROGRAM WILL BE BOUND BY THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE.

2. OUT OF THE TEN SEATS IN THE NIEDERSACHSEN CABINET THE FDP WILL OCCUPY TWO: ROETGER GROSS, MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN THE FORMER SPD/FDP COALITION, WILL COME BACK TO THAT POSITION, AND ERICH KUEPKER, AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY, WILL ALSO RE-OCCUPY HIS FORMER POST. THE PRESENT MINISTER OF INTERIUR, GUSTAV BOSSELMANN, WAS APPOINTED CABINET MEMBER WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD RESIGN "IF A COALITION WITH ANOTHER PARTY SHOULD BE REACHED", AND THUS THE LOSS OF HIS PORTFOLIO WAS ANTICIPATED. WALTHER LEISLER KIEP, RESPONSIBLE NOW FOR THE FINANCE AND ECONOMY DEPARTMENTS, WILL RELINQUISH HIS DUTIES AS ECONOMICS MINISTER.

3. THESE COMPROMISES MUST BE CONFIRMED BY BOTH CDU AND FDP LANDTAG GROUPS AS WELL AS BY A SPECIAL FDP CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN WOLFSBURG ON DEC 11/12, 1976. THERE IS NO INDICATION THEY WILL NOT BE APPROVED. KISELYAK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, REPORTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HAMBUR01681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-0996
From: HAMBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761267/aaaacftm.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW CDU/FDP COALITION IN NIEDERSACHSEN
TAGS: PGOV, GE, CDU, FDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006